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NEWS

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MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

The sixty-first annual meeting of the Medical Library Association was held in Chicago, Illinois, June 3-8, 1962. More than 500 medical librarians were registered for this meeting. Presiding was Miss Gertrude L. Annan, President of MLA and Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine; the able Convention Committee was headed by Dr. Donald Washburn of the American Dental Association.

Sessions were devoted to topics on the role of library associations, technological advances in medical librarianship, quackery and questionable medical literature, and the development of library standards. One day was devoted to a series of seminars held at Wieboldt Hall on the Chicago campus of Northwestern University; Dr. David A. Kronick of the Cleveland Medical Library was in charge of these arrangements.

The first Ida and George Eliot Prize Essay award given by MLA was presented to Mr. Seymour I. Taine, Editor of the Index Medicus, for his report on the NLM Index Mechanization Project. For the second time Mr. Robert T. Divett, Librarian of the University of Utah School of Medical Sciences, received the Murray Gottlieb Prize Essay award.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

President-----Frank B. Rogers (National Library of Medicine)
Vice-President----------Louise Darling (UCLA)
Secretary----------Myrl Ebert (University of North Carolina)
Treasurer----------John P. Isché (Louisiana State)
Board of Directors---Estelle Brodman (Washington University)
------Ralph T. Esterquest (Harvard University)
--Ida Marian Robinson (University of Maryland)
Nominating Committee----------Nettie A. Mehne (Upjohn)
--Ruth E. Harlamert (King County Medical Society, Seattle)

The 1963 meeting of the Medical Library Association will be held in Washington, D. C., June 16-22, concurrently with the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship.

CHANGE IN TRANSLATION PROGRAM

The National Library of Medicine has completed arrangements with the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology for the conduct of a comprehensive review and translation program covering the Soviet biomedical literature. Under this new program the Federation will establish an office to screen approximately 5,000 original papers annually, to translate about 950 of these, to provide scientific editorial review services, and to publish approximately 150 papers in a regular supplement to Federation Proceedings The residual unpublished translations will be announced and deposited with the Office of Technical Services and the John Crerar Library.

This program replaces the Library's support of cover-to-cover translated journals. The December 1961 issues of these journals, with the single exception of Biochemistry, will be the last to be distributed by the Library; support for Biochemistry is continued through calendar year 1962.

The new program will enable the Library to cover a more comprehensive group of Soviet publications, to select those papers which in the opinion of American editors are the most significant, and to achieve a wider distribution of the resulting translations. Subscribers to Federation Proceedings will receive the translation supplement without additional charge.

FOOTNOTES ON QUANTITY OF JOURNAL LITERATURE

...In 1879 John Shaw Billings contributed an article to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal (v. 100, pp. 1-14) on "The Medical Journals of the United States," on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of that publication, since become the New England Journal of Medicine. Billings listed 18 other medical journals (world-wide) which had managed to survive that long. A cursory search would seem to indicate that of the 18 titles which he listed only 10 have survived, often through several metamorphoses, to the present day.

...The journal collection at the National Library of Medicine has been split on a date basis. All titles through 1945 are shelved on C level, and all titles 1946 to date are shelved on A level. At the time of the move into the new building this spring, the 1946-to-date group comprised 32% of all journal volumes in the collection, in terms of linear shelf-feet occupied. On the basis of careful calculations, it is estimated that the post-1945 journals will supply 70% of all interlibrary loan requests received at NLM.

NATIONAL MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL FACILITY

The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service has announced the establishment of a central audiovisual facility to be known as the National Medical Audiovisual Facility and operated as a branch of the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

The National Medical Audiovisual Facility is responsible for maintenance of the National Medical Motion Picture Archives, and development, production, acquisition, distribution, and utilization of medical motion pictures and other audiovisual forms. It is expected to stimulate the dissemination of medical knowledge through audiovisuals, on a national and international basis.

Inquiries relating to this facility and its operations should be addressed to the Director, National Medical Audiovisual Facility, Communicable Disease Center, U. S. Public Health Service, Atlanta 22, Georgia.

DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

From May 29 through June 1, Dr. Frank B. Rogers attended a Workshop on Information Systems Design held at the UCLA Conference Center, Lake Arrowhead, California....From June 3 through June 8 he attended the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Chicago....On June 9 the Director was in Colorado Springs to address the Ninth Conference of Cardiovascular Training Grant Program Directors.....On June 12 he met with the Library Committee of Washington University's School of Medicine, St. Louis, to discuss the MEDLARS program.....On June 16 he represented the National Library of Medicine at the meeting of the Association of Research Libraries at Miami Beach.....On June 24 and 25 he participated in a meeting of the National Science Foundation's Science Information Council in Washington.....On June 30 Dr. Rogers departed for New Hampton, New Hampshire, there to attend the Gordon Research Conference on Science Information.

SUMMER HOURS

Service to readers at the National Library of Medicine in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons will be discontinued for the months of July and August this year. Beginning Monday, July 2, and ending Saturday, September 1, the Library will be open to the public each day, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

END OF A SEARCH

In 1945 a Chinese medical student was assigned by his professor to write an article on recent advances in surgery. The article was duly written and submitted for publication. Before it was published, however, the author left China for America. For the past fifteen years he has searched for his article, and assigned to his secretary the duty of calling various libraries for help in locating it. Secretaries came and went, but the search continued.

Last month the current secretary called NLM's Reference Section, and in the course of the conversation said, "Don't waste much time on it." The reference librarian suggested that the author himself call Mrs. Lois Chang, the Library's Chinese language expert. After talking with the author Mrs. Chang located the article within five minutes.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Among recent acquisitions in the Library's historical collections are three Arabic manuscripts. One is part of Galen's work On the utility of the parts of the human body by perhaps the most famous of the translators of Greco-Roman medicine, Hunain ibn Ishak. A second, dated 1480, includes three treatises of the Al-Hawi (Liber Continens) of Muhammad ibn Zakariya, Abu Bakr, al-Razi (Rhazes), which supplement other manuscript copies of this work. The third is a 14th century commentary by Sadid al-Din al-Kazaruni on the Mujiz of Ibn al-Nafis, who is best known for his description of the lesser circulation.

The Library also announces the receipt of a collection of manuscripts of Clemens von Pirquet (1874-1929), a pioneer investigator of allergic reactions. They are the gift of Mrs. Magda R. Kornfeld, to whom they came from von Pirquet's first assistant at the time of his death.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

Plans for the Congress which will meet in Washington, June 16-22, 1963, are announced in a brochure printed in the four languages of the Congress and mailed recently to all persons and institutions included in the Congress mailing list. The Program Committee reports that a few copies of the 1961 brochure, which contains information on the program topics and submission of papers, are still available from the Secretariat. The Program Committee also reminds interested persons that papers submitted to the Congress must be received by the Secretariat by November 15, 1962.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960